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Mr. REID (N.S.W.): No, I am wanting to be asked a question.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Did Mr. Reid know he could not make a reply without prejudice. The Government had no objection to Mr. Reid's making a statement. The Opposition leader stated his own programme clearly (Mr. Deakin) could neither make nor receive aid.

Mr. REID (N.S.W.): To send an aide a broker.

THE PRIME MINISTER: We need not employ a broker.

The PRIME MINISTER, in the present position would leverage from the gradual emergence out of the active life of this House, (Hear, hear.) He hoped that even in the short session the passage of bills to come forward would inevitably throw sections of the House into new lines. They were all engaged in obsequies for the late Mr. G. F. Fisher, the late Treasurer of the Commonwealth. The late Treasurer was one of the fiscal issue, with

the death of the Duke of Wellington, which Mr. Reid had been so pronounced a leader.

Mr. SPENCE (N.S.W.): Who carries the white flag now? (Laughter.)

Mr. REID (N.S.W.): I admit it.

The PRIME MINISTER said that the silence of speech in regard to the fiscal issue was due

At a social gathering of the Perth Contractors' Association last night, the employers gave expression to the opinion that the Arbitration Act and the influence of the Hon. Mr. W. H. Vincent, president of the act, said that speaking not as an official

to the want of necessity of making any reference to it. The name freetrade was a very extremely free word, and there was a great deal of title that did not express the policy of those who adopted it. Freetraders advocated free thought. The whole question of freetrade and freethought were two different doctrines. Freethought meant the doctrine of absolute abandonment of all considerations, except those expressed in pounds, shillings and pence. It meant that men had died naturally failed in its chief purpose, the labour trouble. It had further much of this sort, and he would not say anything more about it. He said pretty well of respect. He had no hesitation in the provisions and powers of the Act for the purposes of creating disaffection.

Mr. R. O. Law (ex-president of the

peaks. The Bureau of Labor Statistics said that when the Arbitration Act was passed, the circumstances which surrounded it, and a humane element had entered into politics once and for all, and with it had come a national element. (Hear, hear.) Legislation for trade, commerce, and industry was not only necessary from a humane point of view, but it must be protected against foreign com-

Mr. REID (N.S.W.): What about the by-elections? (Opposition cheers.)

THE PRIME MINISTER said that much of the present feeling in England was on the Education question, the South African war, the introduction of Chinese to the Transvaal, and other issues.

Mr. Munster: The time will come when the Act within workable bounds managed to fish their way through had not once made use of the Act's employees. The association had an initiative in an endeavour to cut although in respect to wages the powers to employer and employee.

Mr. Munster: The time will come

Mr. REID (N.S.W.): That is why this red herring was brought out.

The PRIME MINISTER said he would not hesitate when the time came to propose sacrifices in the interests of preferentialism, but: there would be no sacrifices in the dark.

Mr. REID (N.S.W.): Did Sir E. Barton not offer preference before reciprocity was as-

The PRIME MINISTER said that ought to be the outcome of the situation. He had not come for definite offers, and the Commonwealth would be guided to some extent by what was done by Canada and other parts of the Empire. It would not take years to bring about reciprocity. It might not take

months. The first proposition would be thought, be but the beginning of a great policy that would increase in strength as it went on. It must be based upon broad Imperial lines. Now that the Imperial Government was putting the question aside for a few months, if not for longer, we in Australia must necessarily have to speak with

ments were circumspection. Whatever arrangements we might make must depend upon the response of the mother country. There had been a fluctuation in the movement in Great Britain, but there had not been any variation of the attitude in Australia. He believed that in the future they would find Mr. Lloyd and others of his party acknowledging that the labour leaders were men absolutely in the right. It was plain that the Labour party was wanted. They were dominating the politics in the federal Parliament, and it was the fault of all other sections of the community.

the reasonableness of the proposals and the magnificence of the end they were intended to serve. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. REID (N.S.W.): I don't deny that the object is good, but are you going the best way about it?

THE PRIME MINISTER said he greatly regretted that the population problem presented

so serious an aspect. He produced papers to show that Australian farmers in possession of considerable capital were leaving the Commonwealth to settle on the Canadian wheat fields. There was land available for settlement in Western Australia and elsewhere, and yet our people were facing the dangers and risks of farming in a country far removed

from the centres of population in Canada, where prices of provisions and the cost of carriage must be very high. He emphasised the necessity of making available in Australia good land that could be irrigated. (Cheers.) At the present moment not only had they to overcome the hesitancy of immigrants to come to Australia, but also to prevent our present

of settlers from leaving us. (Hear, hear.)

An Hon. Member: What about a "White Australia?" (Hear, hear.)

The PRIME MINISTER contended that the Commonwealth legislation or administration had not in any way handicapped immigration from Great Britain.

S. Whiteman, a drover, of Goulburn, is in charge of a mob of sheep. Moving, met with a painful accident on the stock route, near Tullaghan. He was at dinner at the foot of the mountain, when a lighted boiler, which had been hoisted to boil the tea, fell across the unfortunate a big crowd of spectators gathered to witness the event.

Mr. KEMD (N.E.W.): The matter incident only took 40 million British people that they were not wanted. (Cheers.)

THE PRIME MINISTER said that his reply to Mr. Reid on the question of black labour on mail steamers was a reference to "Hansard." He pointed out that when Sir E. Barton had concluded his speech in favour of the

ing him unconscious. He was miles to Turrawan, and thence Gunnedah by train for medical

QUEANBEYAN

Yesterday evening a returned a Heydon was admitted to the hospital from poisoning.

**WHARFAGE DUES  
PRODUCE.**

**PROTEST OF FARMERS**

Reid was all along in sympathy with the inclusion of the clause. A long time had elapsed since then, but Mr. Reid had never attempted its removal. He had always slept over the existence of the clause. Why did Mr. Reid not object to the exclusion of black labour from vessels which carried our mails to the New Hebrides? (Hear, hear.) On that point

the opposition was met. Mr. (Mr. Deakin) stated that this clause had had any effect on the tender received for the English mail contract (Hear. Rec.) Possibly it had carried out the P. and O. Company but it may have been the cause of the greatly increased service by the Orient Company. He might mention that what might be regarded as tender had been received, since the fact of the

This informal proposal agreed to abide by all the conditions imposed by the Government. (Hear, hear.) Further particulars of this tender had been promulgated, and were now expected. There were only two peremptory conditions imposed by the Government, one of which was white labour, and the other proper refrigerating chambers. Turning

to the immigration restriction and education test, he claimed that recent attacks by the press and Oppositionists were unjustifiable. It had always been understood that the test was to be applied in such a manner as to exclude coloured aliens. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. REID (N.S.W.): Have no white people been excluded?

Parliament would sanction this proposal, and he did not believe the Government would have the power to impose this warfrage. It was resolved.—That this representative farmers desired to emphatically protest against imposition of charge dues upon alien immigrants, as decided upon at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Treasurers, and that a sub-committee be appointed to represent these districts.

The PRIME MINISTER said that as far as he knew not a single white person had been barred out under the test. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Chamberlain had told Sir E. Barron at the conference in 1897, that an education test would be acceptable to the Imperial authorities, but that the colour line bill would have to receive very serious consideration before coming deputation to the Premier."

being accepted. He vigorously defended the working of the Electoral Act. When it was considered that the measure operated over the greatest territory served by any such Act, that it was a novel measure, and that its officers were to a large extent inexperienced, he thought the result was remarkably good (Hear, hear.) If the chief electoral officer

**BOYS' BRIGADE**

The members of the Boys' Brigade, were tendered a night's amusement in the form of a concert and dramatic

the divisions in the country. He asserted that the old age pensions question was one which could be treated by the Commonwealth in a way that could not be undertaken by the various States. (Labour cheers.) It was one of those matters which was wrapped up in the control of the finances, and would become more tangible when some understanding was

Reached in connection with the State debts. He thought the most hopeful thing about the debate was Mr. Reid's acceptance of the sinking of the fiscal issue.

Mr. JOSEPH COOK (N.S.W.): He did not say that.

Mr. REID (N.S.W.): It is an armed trust. I will shut up your armoury for the rest of the day.

**FESTERED WOUND RE-OPENED**

**ZAM-DUK EFFECTIVE WHERE TREATMENTS FAILED**

"About four months ago," said Mr. J. M. Sullivan, of 23 Catherine street, Sydney, "I cut my hand severely."

The PRIME MINISTER: There is no difficulty about that, because in the proposals of this speech, with the exception of the Iron Bounty Bill, there will be no attempt in any way to interfere with fiscal peace, upon which we went to the country. He referred again to the necessity for population, and to

Mr. DUGALD THOMSON (N.S.W.) congratulated the Prime Minister on the conciliatory tone of his speech.

Mr. WATSON (N.S.W.) moved the adjourn-

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